

REPORT

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Fazal Khan, Registrar, CEO

DATE: May 30, 2022

SUBJECT: Registrar's Report

Highlights:

- Remote Operations
- Registration Examinations
- Government Relations and Pending Regulations
- MOH
 - College Performance Measurements Framework
 - Governance Reform Consultation
- External Relations
- Strategic Planning

Remote Operations:

As the 6th wave of the pandemic appears to be easing, the administrative team is looking to a hybrid return to office that will be implemented in phases starting June 2022. The College continues to operate remotely with no impediment to timelines or workflow. Staff are accessing the office space for necessary functions such as mail and copying and the space remains available to those who wish to work on site (with some capacity restrictions).

Return to office guidelines for staff have been developed based on feedback from staff and it is expected that as of June 1st, small teams of staff will be working on site, once a week for collaborative sessions as well as supporting any Board functions.

Registration Examinations:

The College held a large exam session, with approximately 120 candidates, at Seneca College between April 30th to May 4th. Again, as restrictions ease and the impact of the pandemic subsides, the College will be working with NACOR to increase cohort sizes and reduce the number of exam days per session.

Government Relations and Pending Regulations:

Internal bi-weekly update meetings are being held with Counsel Government Relations. Counsel is actively following up on pending regulation updates as well as monitoring the landscape for possible governance and regulatory model changes. While we were pleased to see some activity from the Ministry with regards to the pending Registration and Professional Misconduct Regulations, the government has moved into the Writ Period as the provincial election approaches and the Ministry staff have informed us that they will be in a 'Caretaker Mode' until the next government is sworn in. Basic support will be provided but no new legislation or scope discussions will take place during this period.

Ministry of Health:

College Performance Measurements Framework (CPMF)

The administration team submitted the 2021 CPMF Report by the March 31, 2022 deadline. This represents the College's second report. The Ministry has made small updates to the reporting tool. As well, the COO Registrar was invited to participate on the Ministry's CPMF Working Group committee to review and provide input for future reporting requirements.

Bill 106 – Pandemic and Emergency Preparedness Act, 2022

Bill 106, the *Pandemic and Emergency Preparedness Act, 2022*, was introduced by the Ontario Government on March 29, 2022 and received royal assent on April 14, 2022. This bill resulted in amendments to the *Regulated Health Professions Act* that are aimed at reducing barriers for individuals seeking to be registered with health regulatory colleges, including:

- Prohibiting colleges from requiring internationally trained/certified applicants to demonstrate that they have Canadian experience as a condition for registration
- Requiring timely registration decisions for nationally recognized applicants
- Streamlining the requirements for language proficiency
- Requiring colleges to introduce an emergency class of registration to enable expedited registration where necessary

The majority of the amendments will require additional regulations in order to have effect. In some cases, the amendments will have little impact to COO policies, but in others there will be a need for the COO to amend policies or develop new regulations in order to comply with the new requirements. Once the legislature resumes following the election, the COO will be working with the Ministry on the necessary implementation pieces.

External Relations:

Several members of the administration team continue to provide information sessions to opticianry students at Seneca, Georgian and La Cité College. Topics covered include an overview of the College,

professional and ethical obligations, Quality Assurance requirements and an overview of the Registration Exam process. These remote and interactive sessions include small breakout sessions to discuss practice scenarios and have been very well received.

The NACOR national meetings in April were once again held remotely with a view to holding a hybrid session in the fall based on environmental conditions.

Strategic Planning Session

Staff have been working weekly on preparing for the upcoming Strategic Planning session in June. A summer intern student has been brought onboard to assist with the research, planning and event logistics. Several surveys, focus groups and interviews have been conducted and information is being compiled to create a robust environmental scan document. Speakers have been secured and offsite logistics are being finalized.

Respectfully submitted by:

Fazal Khan, RO
Registrar, CEO